GOOSEBERRY - PRICE RIVER INVESTIGATIONS

J. W. Cahoon, Assistant Engineer

Extensive investigations looking toward the development of the so-called "Gooseberry Project" and other projects on the Price River are being conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation in cooperation with the State of Utah, through its Water Storage Commission. Concurrently, the Bureau of Reclamation is conducting extensive investigations in the San Rafael River and Price River watersheds under the provisions of Section 15 of the Boulder Canyon Act. The two investigations are intimately connected.

The Gooseberry Project contemplates the diversion of water from the headwaters of the Price River and Huntington Creek, both in the Colorado River Basin, to the San Pitch River in the Great Salt Lake Basin. The waters so diverted are intended to be used as supplemental water for lands already developed in Sanpete County. The principal features of this project are described in the "Report on Sanpete Division, Salt Lake Basin Investigations, Utah," made in 1933 by E. O. Larson of the Bureau of Reclamation. Briefly, the plan proposes a storage reservoir on Gooseberry Creek, a tributary of Fish Creek which is in turn a tributary of Price River, for the regulation of the natural runoff of Gooseberry Creek, and also such additional water as may be brought by means of feeder canals to the reservoir

from the headwaters of Huntington Creek, a tributary of the San Rafael River. Water thus regulated will be diverted through a tunnel into Cottonwood Creek, a tributary of the San Pitch River. A new canal, termed the Gooseberry Highline Canal, will distribute diverted water to certain lands in Sanpete County, mainly as a supplemental supply to lands now inadequately irrigated.

The present investigations include revision of water supply studies, designs, and cost estimates, based upon data secured subsequent to the 1933 report.

Other plans under consideration propose to divert water from Scofield Reservoir, located on Fish Creek, a tributary of the Price River, and from White River, another tributary thereof, to the headwaters of the Spanish Fork River in the Great Salt Lake Basin. Water thus diverted would be available as a supplemental supply for existing irrigation in the Great Salt Lake Basin, including the Strawberry Valley Project.

These studies include the survey of canal and tunnel locations, the establishment of gages on the White River, the development of plans and cost estimates for the project works, and water supply studies directed at the determination of the water available for such diversion, in excess of the requirements of lands that may feasibly be irrigated in the Price River and San Rafael River basins, together with plans and estimates for rebuilding the dam at Scofield Reservoir,

the useable capacity of which has been limited subsequent to the partial failure of the dam in 1928, so as to perform a three-fold function, i. e.: (1) to meet fully the requirements of Price River areas for late season water, (2) to provide storage for a possible diversion from the reservoir to the Spanish Fork River, and (3) to provide replacement storage for the proposed Gooseberry and White River diversions.

The proposed diversions from the headwaters of Huntington Creek for the Gooseberry Project may be competitive to the requirements in the San Rafael River Basin. Careful attention is being given to the possibility of providing exchange storage on Huntington and Cottonwood creeks so that the Gooseberry Project may divert all flow available, without injury to downstream developments, and permit the already-constructed Ephraim and Spring City projects, which now divert excess water from the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek to the San Pitch River Basin, to divert all flow available without injury to downstream developments.

- - -

Salt Lake City, Utah
November 21, 1938